

**From:** DPA EIS Helpdesk  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2002 10:43 AM  
**To:** ALL DPA Statewide Staff; ALL DPA State Associates; DFYS Eligibility Staff  
**Subject:** Information on Upcoming APA/TA/FS Mass Change Jobs

**Broadcast to All Staff from the Food Stamp Policy Unit,  
the Policy and Program Development Team,  
and Systems Operations**

**Information on Upcoming APA/TA/FS Mass Change Jobs**

This broadcast is to give you some information about the Adult Public Assistance, Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp Mass Change jobs that will run at the end of this month.

Most cases will be successfully processed by these jobs and will have their benefits authorized. However, many cases will need to be reviewed by caseworkers to ensure January benefits are accurate and appropriate notices are sent.

We will be sending another broadcast on December 2, after the Mass Change jobs have run. It will include information about the reports you will receive and how to use those reports to complete the processing of January benefits.

**What is Mass Change?**

System programming for Mass Change automatically adjusts benefits whenever a change affecting all cases occurs. Mass Change jobs are run in November to automate the January changes to the Adult Public Assistance need and payment standards, the SSI payment standards, and the Temporary Assistance need standards, maximum shelter allowances, and ratable reduction.

There are no mass changes for the Food Stamp program for January, but since Food Stamp benefit levels may be affected by the changes in the cash programs, the Food Stamp Mass Change job is run to re-determine January Food Stamps.

The Mass Change jobs do not deauthorize benefits. If the Mass Change job re-determines a benefit, the benefit is authorized with a PCN of MASS. If the benefit is rejected by Mass Change then the benefit remains authorized with a PCN of ROLL.

**What will APA Mass Change do?**

- Increase the SI and SS income values on the UNIN screen based on the new Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) percentage amount
- Recalculate the APA benefit based on the changes in income

**What will the APA Mass Change NOT do?**

- Recalculate benefits for the following:
  - o Cases that are not in the system months of December or January
  - o Cases that do not have December benefits authorized
  - o Cases that have a zero benefit authorized
  - o Cases that have refused cash
  - o Nursing Home (NHP household type) cases
- Earned Income cases
- Cases appearing to be SSI eligible without SI income records
- Cases appearing to be SSI ineligible with SI income records
- Couple cases with the spouse in a position other than the 02 position

**What will TA and FS Mass Change do?**

- Increase the Temporary Assistance countable income of a child who is receiving SSI and is included in the Temporary Assistance case
- Recalculate Temporary Assistance benefits using the new need standards, maximum shelter allowances and ratable reduction
- Recalculate Food Stamp benefit amounts, incorporating any changes made by the Temporary Assistance and APA Mass Change jobs

**What will TA and FS Mass Change NOT do?**

- Redetermine eligibility based on resources
- Redetermine eligibility for cases that fail the gross or net income tests, except categorically eligible Food Stamp households
- Recalculate benefits for the following:
  - o Cases for which two benefits for December have been authorized or issued, not including child support pass through payments
  - o Cases that are not in the system months of December or January
  - o Cases that do not have December benefits authorized
  - o Cases with a paid benefit for January
  - o Cases that have a zero benefit, including suspended cases, refuse cash cases and cases with a Temporary Assistance benefit of less than \$10
  - o Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp cases that include a penalized or disqualified individual
  - o Temporary Assistance cases with deemed income (participation codes DP, PA, and SP)
  - o Temporary Assistance cases with an SI AT amount that is not \$131
  - o FS case with a related APA or Temporary Assistance case that was not mass changed
  - o FS case with SSA or SSI income amounts that were not mass changed

**What are the Program Requirements for Mass Change Notices?**

- Temporary Assistance families must be notified of any change in benefits due to Mass Change. The W700 and W705 are used for this, based on the Mass Change reports you will receive at the beginning of December.

- Food Stamp policy does **not** require a notice for benefit changes resulting from Mass Change. Instead, posters notifying households of possible changes in their food stamp benefits will be displayed in DPA office lobbies. These posters were mailed to all offices last week.
- Adult Public Assistance clients are automatically notified of any benefit decrease due to the Mass Change with notice X064.

**When will Mass Change Reports be available?**

Adult Public Assistance, Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp Mass Change paper reports will be mailed to offices statewide on Monday, December 2. The Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp Mass Change reports are combined and will be accessible in Document Direct on Monday, December 2. We do not yet have APA Mass Change reports on Document Direct, but hope to have them available soon.

If you have system related questions, please contact the Help Desk at DPA EIS Helpdesk or [EISHelpdesk@health.state.ak.us](mailto:EISHelpdesk@health.state.ak.us). Temporary Assistance and APA policy questions should be directed to the Policy and Program Development Team at [DPAPolicy@health.state.ak.us](mailto:DPAPolicy@health.state.ak.us). For Food Stamp policy questions, contact Joan Chase at [Joan\\_Chase@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Joan_Chase@health.state.ak.us).